

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Palestine

DATE DISTR. 28 Feb 1949

SUBJECT Expulsion of Two Russian Clergymen
from the Russian Compound in Jerusalem

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(LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF INFO
25X1X6SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Following the arrival in Palestine of Archimandrite Leonidas, Soviet ecclesiastical representative, members of the clergy who are loyal to the old Russian Orthodox Church repeatedly were invited by Leonidas to take part in services which he was conducting at the Russian Cathedral within the Russian Compound. Two members of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission, Deacon Mefody Popovich and the monk, Nikefor Faswala (Fasala), consistently refused to participate in such services, informant states.

2. On 19 December 1948 an Israeli officer served notice on the two clergymen that they were being transferred within 24 hours to the Arab Refugee Compound in Baka'a. Upon their earnest pleas of illness they were allowed a reprieve, but on 21 December they were moved to the Upper Baka'a Compound. All documents, papers, etc., in their possession were taken from them.

3. According to current practice, the two men, as they are in destitute circumstances, are entitled to a relief payment of £1 0.110 daily. [redacted] when Major Maurice Basson, Military Governor of the Southern Jerusalem district, in whose jurisdiction the refugee camp is located, suggested that the two clergymen be given £P 5.000 per month each, his deputy, Joshua Simon, replied, "We must first see what the Soviet Legation has to say about this." [redacted] the two men are receiving blankets, food, etc., from their neighbors in the refugee compound.

4. Father Miletii, member of the Russian Orthodox clergy, apparently is remaining in the Russian Compound, according to informant, who adds that it is rumored that Miletii has acquiesced to Archimandrite Leonidas' insistent invitations to partake in services conducted by Leonidas and that, possibly, he is regarded by the Soviet representative as a convert. One other priest, or a monk, is still with Father Miletii, informant states.*

5. [redacted] biographical information on Mefody Popovich and Nikefor Faswala:

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☒ DECLASSIFIED

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- a. Mefody Popovich was born in the Carpathian Mountains. He is 38 years old and has been in Palestine since 1935. He was ordained by Bishop Anastasy (now Metropolitan Anastasy in Munich). He wants to go to the United States, where he is personally known to Archbishop Vitaly of New York and Jernonimo of Detroit.

25X1A6a. Nikefor Faswala (Fasala) was born in Bessarabia. He is 76 years old and has been in Palestine since 1938.

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